August, 1991. Genuine demands and needs of States/UTs are always taken into consideration while making allocations.

Consumer movement in rural areas

*10. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have formulated a plan of action to take the consumer movement to the rural areas, for the benefit of the people and if so what are the details thereof;

(b) if not, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government for the speedy disposal of consumers' grievances and problems?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI A. K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) The Government are taking a number of steps to create consumer awareness in the country including the rural areas. Some of the steps are:—

(i) Encouraging formation of consumer organisations in rural areas;

(ii) Giving preference for financial assistance to consumer organisations working in rural areas for undertaking programmes for creating consumer awareness;

(iii) Distributing the Government journal "Upabhokta Jagaran" to the libraries upto block levels;

(iv) Broadcasting at a Weekly Programme "Apna Adhikar" from the commercial broadcasting stations of AIR and telecast of education programmes on Doordarshan;

(v) Giving preferences to the consumers organisations working in rural areas for the purpose of National Awards on Consumer Protection etc.

(c) Government has enacted and enforced the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 to provide speedy redressal to consumer grievances relating to defective goods, deficient services, unfair trade practices etc. The Act envisages three tier redressal agencies at the national, state and district levels to redress consumer grievances. Recently, Government has promulgated the Consumer Protection (Amendment) Ordinance, 1993 on 18.6.1993 which enables setting up of more than one District Forum in a district by the State Governments depending upon the work load.

Cat scan machines for ESI hospitals

*11. SHRI BRAHAMDEO ANAND PASWAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ESI Hospitals in the country do not have CAT scanning machines;

(b) whether Government propose to purchase CAT scanning machines for these hospitals; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof and by when these machines are likely to be purchased?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) For Cat scanning diagnostic facilities the cases of the ESI beneficiaries are referred to renowned medical institutions in the country and the expenditure, incurred is re-imbursed to the insured persons under the ESI Scheme. This arrangement has been found economical. Therefore there is no proposal to purchase Cat scanning Machines for the ESI Hospitals.

Collaboration with China in coal mining

*12. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state: